

A COMPENDIUM OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING STUDIES IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT OF MALAYSIA

MARIANA MOHAMED OSMAN
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MANSOR IBRAHIM



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CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Contents	v
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
Foreword	ix
Preface	x
Contributors	xii
CHAPTER 1: KUALA LUMPUR DRAFT CITY PLAN 2020 LOCAL INQUIRY: AN ANALYSIS OF ITS SHORTCOMINGS <i>Alias Abdullah, Zulaikha Nurulzuhri zahar and Muhammad Faris Abdullah</i>	1
CHAPTER 2: RESIDENTS' PERCEPTION OF SAFETY OF BACKLANES AT TERRACED-HOUSING AREAS IN KUALA LUMPUR <i>Alias Abdullah, Nurul Hana Mustaffa and Muhammad Faris Abdullah</i>	8
CHAPTER 3: EFFECTIVNESS OF NOISE BARRIERS IN RESIDENTIAL AREA: A CASE STUDY OF USJ 3/1 AND USJ/2 OF SUBANG JAYA, SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN <i>Mansor Ibrahim and Mohd Azli Ngateman</i>	19
CHAPTER 4: MANAGING STORMWATER THROUGH LANDSCAPE DESIGN FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY <i>Mohd Faiz Musa, Ismawi Hj. Zen, and Izawati Tukiman</i>	32
CHAPTER 5: PROBLEMS OF ALLEVIATING POVERTY IN LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs) <i>Lukman Hakim Mahamod</i>	39

CHAPTER 6:	MALAYSIA URBAN INDICATORS NETWORK (MURNInet) IN THE CONTEXT OF <i>MAQASID AL-SHARIAH</i>: AN OVERVIEW	49
	<i>Nurul Aida Salim, Azila Ahmad Sarkawi and Alias Abdullah</i>	
CHAPTER 7:	ZAKAT IN MALAYSIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT	57
	<i>Lukman Hakim Mahamod</i>	
CHAPTER 8:	INEQUALITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CENTRALIZING ZAKAT COLLECTION: A CASE STUDY OF PADANG TERAP DISTRICT OF KEDAH	66
	<i>Lukman Hakim Mahamod</i>	
CHAPTER 9:	THE AWARENESS AND PRACTICES OF 3R AMONG STUDENTS TOWARDS WASTE REDUCTION	75
	<i>Mariana Mohamed Osman and Siti Rohayu Yusof</i>	
CHAPTER 10:	A REVIEW ON SIMULATION MODEL OF CROWD MOVEMENT DURING INGRESS AND EGRESS OF STADIUM	89
	<i>Syahriah Bachok and Zulfadly Azizi Bohari</i>	

CHAPTER 3

EFFECTIVENESS OF NOISE BARRIERS IN RESIDENTIAL AREA: A CASE STUDY OF USJ 3/1 AND USJ/2 OF SUBANG JAYA, SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN

Mansor Ibrahim and Mohd Azli Ngateman

ABSTRACT

As developments arise from years to years, a consequence from this advance way of living that comfort and make human lives easier comes with a price. And because all of the attention is given to air and water pollution issues as the result from the development, noise issue is not given enough attention. This study examines the issue of noise in a residential area in Subang Jaya and tries to find out whether the tool installed to reduce the increasing noise problem is effective or not. A few rows of houses in USJ3/1 and USJ3/2 has been chosen as the study area and 30 respondents have been asked to answer the questionnaire survey in order to come out with the result in obtaining a set of reliable data. A ground measurement survey at the study area and another residential area without a noise barrier had also been done in order to verify the result from the questionnaire survey. The data gathered for the questionnaire survey have been analyzed and it has been highlighted that noise barrier is effective as a tool to reduce noise problem. The ground measurement survey done at the study however shows a mixed of both acceptable and non-acceptable noise level but then another ground measurement survey was conducted at the residential area without noise barrier shows a higher figure of noise level as compared to the level from the study area. Even though the result from this study shows that noise barrier is effective in reducing noise level from the results of the questionnaire survey but a few recommendation and proposal have been outlined in order to improve the existing conditions of the noise level in the study area. Consequently, this condition will provide a better living quality for the residents of the study area.

INTRODUCTION

Ambrose and Ollswang (1995) have defined noise as “undesired sound; usually of a disturbing nature or causing interference with some hearing task”. The general term of noise covers a wide range of sounds and conditions. Noise is a problem when it interferes and intrudes with a listening or communication task. According to Koppelman (1999, p.4), ‘noise may also be qualified as such by attitude or conditioning of the listener.’ For instant, city people may sleep blissfully through the enduring night time urban traffic noise, while country visitors are highly disturbed.

In Malaysia, rules and regulations for noise has been stated in many decrees. A lot of agencies are made responsible for different areas of power. Among the earlier rules and regulations for noise is Ordinan Kesalahan Kecil, 1953, which forbid certain noises after 11 pm